

“IT’S JUST SINGING”

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Singing After the Exodus

God's people endured 400 years of Egyptian slavery. God heard their cry and sent Moses to lead them to freedom. What did they do after escaping slavery by God's hand (Exodus 15:1-22)?

- **They sang of God and His empowered deliverance.**
- **They sang to God and one another as they celebrated their victory over Egypt.**

Dare any Israelite not join in praising God for that freedom, saying "Well, it's just singing!?"

Singing After the Exodus

When the children of Israel were later harshly oppressed once by Jabin and Sisera, and God gave His children resounding victory through Deborah and Barak, what did they do (Judges 4-5)?

- **They sang praises to God for all kings to hear.**
- **They sang of God's power over nature.**
- **They blessed the Lord for His deliverance.**

Was this “just singing?”

Singing During the United Kingdom

When David transported the Ark of the Covenant into the tabernacle he had constructed Jerusalem, what occurred in Jerusalem that day?

- **Songs to commemorate, thank, and praise God (v.4).**
- **Singing of Psalms to “*talk of all His wondrous works*” (v.9).**
- **Singing “*to the Lord*” and to “*proclaim the good news of His salvation*” (v.23).**

Does this sound like it wasn't as worthwhile as sitting home since, after all, it was 'only a song service?

Singing in the Psalms

The instruction to “sing” (whether by statement or example) appears some 69 times in the book of Psalms. Why?

- *“And now **my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me**; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord” (27:6).*
- *“Sing praise to the Lord, You saints of His, And **give thanks** at the remembrance of His holy name” (30:4).*
- *“**My heart is steadfast**, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise” (57:7).*

Singing in the Psalms

The instruction to “sing” (whether by statement or example) appears some 69 times in the book of Psalms. Why?

- *“But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; For You have been my defense And refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; For God is my defense, My God of mercy” (59:16-17).*
- *“Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious” (66:2).*
- *“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation” (95:1).*

Singing in the Psalms

The instruction to “sing” (whether by statement or example) appears some 69 times in the book of Psalms. Why?

- *“Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name; **Proclaim the good news of His salvation** from day to day” (96:1-2).*
- *“Make a joyful shout to the Lord . . . **Serve the Lord with gladness;** Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; **It is He who has made us,** and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be **thankful** to Him, and bless His name” (100:1-4).*
- *“Praise the Lord! **For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful**” (147:1).*

Singing in the Psalms

Why so much singing?

- They sang because of their God-given victory (27:6).
- They sang with steadfast hearts in remembrance of His name (30:4; 57:7).
- They sang of His power, strength, mercy, & how He was their defense/refuge (59:16-17).
- They sang to the honor and glory of the Rock of their salvation (66:2; 95:1).
- They sang to bless His name & proclaim good news of salvation (96:1-2).
- For His many blessings they sang songs of thanksgiving (100:1-4).
- They sang because it brought goodness and peace to their lives (147:1).

“Just singing?” Certainly not!

Singing in the Divided Kingdom

- In 2 Chron. 20:1-30, contains the story of a victory God's children enjoyed by His hand. When He promised redemption through Jahaziel, the people responded with singing (v.21-23).
- 2 Chron. 29 records how King Hezekiah repaired the Lord's house that had been abandoned and left to fall into ruin, and then restored temple worship. When the construction completed, the people sang praises to the Lord (v.29-30).
- Isaiah would also explain several purposes for singing:
 - **Recognize God's excellence** (Isaiah 12:5).
 - **Replace sorrow with gladness** (Isaiah 35:10).
 - **Thank God for His comfort and mercy** (Isaiah 49:13).

Singing in the New Testament

- Jesus and the apostles sang before His arrest in the Garden (**Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26**).
- Paul and Silas sang during their imprisonment in **Acts 16:16-34**. Remember the result of that singing?
- Instead of being filled “spirits” of alcohol, we should fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit by singing (**Eph. 5:15-20**)
- We should use singing as an opportunity to teach/admonish one another (**Col. 3:15-17**; consider again **Acts 16:16-34**).
- Since Christians are to be of good cheer, we should be a singing people (**John 16:33; James 5:13**).

Conclusion

So, is singing ever “just singing?”

- It should be clear that there is never such a thing as “just singing” in the Scriptures.
- As result, let us be sure that in our hearts, attitudes, and actions that there is neither such a thing in existence.
- If lips or hearts have uttered this phrase, let us repent and let us **SING!**